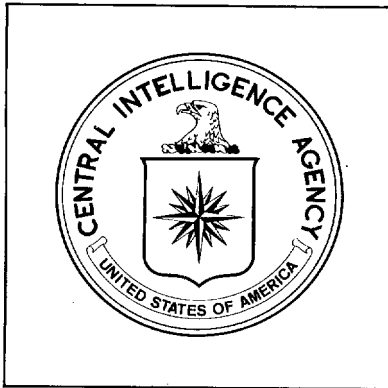


Top Secret

NOFORN



STAFF NOTES:

Middle East
Africa
South Asia

Handle via COMINT Channels

Top Secret

126

SC No. 10372/75
December 1, 1975

NOFORN/NOCONTRACT/ORCON

Warning Notice
Sensitive Intelligence Sources and Methods Involved
(WNINTEL)

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

DISSEMINATION CONTROL ABBREVIATIONS

NOFORN-	Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals
NOCONTRACT-	Not Releasable to Contractors or Contractor/Consultants
PROPIN-	Caution-Proprietary Information Involved
USIBONLY-	USIB Departments Only
ORCON-	Dissemination and Extraction of Information Controlled by Originator
REL ... -	This Information has been Authorized for Release to ...

Classified by 010725
Exempt from general declassification schedule
of E.O. 11652, exemption category:
§ 5B(1), (2), and (3)
Automatically declassified on:
Date Impossible to Determine

MIDDLE EAST – AFRICA – SOUTH ASIA

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Middle East - Africa Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

CONTENTS



Nigeria: End of Purge Announced	3
Somalia-French Territory of the Afars and Issas: Siad Weighing Military Takeover of FTAI	5

Dec 1, 1975

25X1D

Approved For Release 2002/01/03 : CIA-RDP79T00865A002300030002-3

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2002/01/03 : CIA-RDP79T00865A002300030002-3

TOP SECRET UMBRA

Nigeria

End of Purge Announced

1/2
3
The military government announced over the weekend that its purge of the armed forces and civil service is now over. The announcement, which exhorted all concerned to settle down and resume activities, clearly came in response to signs of growing discontent over the purge among junior and middle grade officers in the armed forces and some senior officers in the government.

The decision to end the purge reportedly was made at a recent meeting of the ruling 22-man Supreme Military Council at which army chief of staff Brigadier Danjuma--the principal figure in charge of the military purge--declared that it had now gone too far and was becoming counter-productive. Last Saturday, the regime announced that a total of 244 officers--including a state military governor--had been dismissed or retired as a result of the military purge that began last month. In a three-month-long purge of the civil service, more than 9,000 civil servants and university officials were removed. The announcement ending the purge made no reference to the regime's previously stated plan to demobilize an unspecified number of servicemen, including ex-soldiers recalled to duty during the civil war.

1/3
Disagreement among some members of the government over the way the purge was conducted reportedly led them to start a whispering campaign charging that Head of State Brigadier Muhammed, army chief of staff Brigadier Danjuma, and commissioner of external affairs Colonel Garba were monopolizing decision-making at the expense of the other members of the supposedly collegial ruling council. It remains unclear, however, whether the council members are seriously divided over the issue of broader participation in decision making. Apparently the dominant

(Continued)

Dec 1, 1975

3

TOP SECRET UMBRA

TOP SECRET UMBRA

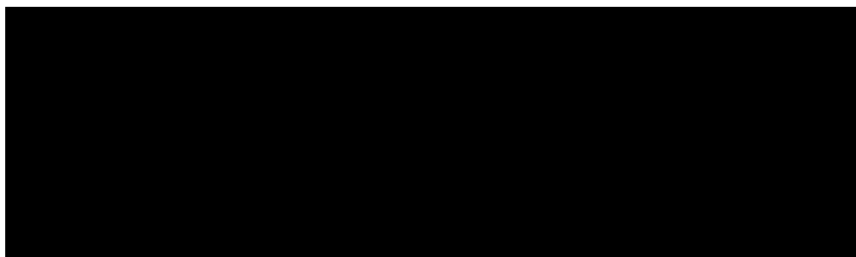
1/3 council members do not believe that they are in danger of being forcibly challenged, and they seem to feel that they retain key support in the armed forces. Nonetheless, the regime's leaders are planning to try to mollify dissatisfied members of the government by giving them greater responsibilities.

Brigadier Obassanjo--the government's nominal number two man by virtue of his position as chief of staff at supreme headquarters--may be on his way out. [REDACTED]

Obassanjo may be guilty of corrupt dealings dating from the Gowon regime. The current government may decide to remove him in order to protect the anti-corruption image it has fostered since taking power last July. (SECRET NOFORN/NOCONTRACT)

25X1C

25X1A



Dec 1, 1975

4

TOP SECRET UMBRA

TOP SECRET UMBRA

Somalia-French Territory of the Afars and Issas

Siad Weighing Military Takeover of FTAI

1 Although he is apparently being restrained by the Soviet Union, President Siad is still considering the use of military force to bring the French Territory of the Afars and Issas (FTAI) under Somalia's control.

2 Siad has begun to focus his attention on the FTAI amid indications that Paris is considering granting independence to the territory. Units of the Somali armed forces last week carried out a combined land, sea and air exercise--including the use of Soviet-piloted MIGs--that was designed to simulate operations in the FTAI. The exercise was also intended to show Somalia's neighbors that it has military muscle and enjoys Soviet support.

3 Siad has publicly stated--most recently to a visiting French journalist--that he would accept an independent FTAI. The Somali leader, however, has made it plain that he would not accept an independent FTAI government that was pro-Ethiopian or was led by the chairman of the FTAI council of ministers, Ali Aref, who is considered to be anti-Somali. It is likely that an independent FTAI government, at least in its early stages, would be led by Aref. Siad, who views the FTAI as part of greater Somalia, probably sees annexation of the FTAI as necessary in order to prevent Aref from taking over.

25X6
Soviet advisers in Somalia have bluntly warned Siad not to take any initiatives against the FTAI until its independence is proclaimed. They have advised him that once that occurs, he can press the Issas, who are a Somali tribe, to call for Somalia's intervention on the ground that the Issas must be protected from their traditional enemies, the Afars and Ali Aref. 25X6

25X6
2 the Soviets have no intention of allowing Siad to take independent action against any of his neighbors. (CONFIDENTIAL)

25X1A
Dec 1, 1975

TOP SECRET UMBRA

Top Secret



Top Secret